

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Alain GANTIER)
) Group A.U. 3728
 Appln. No. : Unassigned (PCT National)
) (Anticipated)
) Phase of PCT/FR01/00199)
) Examiner Not Known
 I.A. Filed : January 22, 2001)
)
 For : ARTICULATED TILTING TONGUE FOR)
) RIGIDIFYING AND/OR PROTECTING THE)
) FRONT OF A SHOE AND MORE)
) PARTICULARLY A SNOWBOARD)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of filing fees and prior to the first examination of the instant application, please enter the following amendment, which deletes multiple dependent claim relationships:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 14-28 as follows:

--/ 14. An assembly comprising:
 a shoe and a device for flexural stiffening and/or protection of the shoe;
 said shoe having a flexion fold zone, an upper front surface, a front end zone,
 and a sole;